

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-75. (canceled)

Claim 76. (New) A method of reproducing audio data from a recording medium, comprising the steps of:

connecting a user identification module to a data player for reproducing the audio data from the recording medium;

mutually authenticating the user identification module and the data player;

reading the audio data from the recording medium using the data player;

comparing module identification data buried in the read audio data with module identification data in the user identification module;

if the compared module identification data is coincident, reproducing the audio data; and

if the compared module identification data is not coincident, detecting a reproduction rule buried in the read audio data and reproducing the audio data in accordance with the reproduction rule.

Claim 77. (New) The method according to claim 76, further comprising the step of:

loading the recording medium into the data player; and

designating the audio data to be reproduced from the recording medium.

Claim 78. (New) The method according to claim 76, further comprising the step of detecting the module identification data buried in the audio data.

Claim 79. (New) The method according to claim 76, wherein the

audio data is reproduced when the compared module identification data is coincident by decrypting the audio data using user identification data from the user identification module, decompressing the decrypted audio data, and decoding the decompressed audio data.

Claim 80. (New) The method according to claim 76, wherein the user identification module contains right-of-listening data for transfer to the data player when billing for reproducing the audio data.

Claim 81. (New) A system for reproducing audio data, comprising:

- a data player for reproducing the audio data from a recording medium;

- a user identification module connected to the data player via a cable; wherein the user identification module contains module identification data uniquely identifying the user identification module and user identification data uniquely identifying a user;

- the system mutually authenticates the data player and the user identification module;

- the data player reads the audio data from the recording medium and compares module identification data buried in the read audio data with the module identification data in the user identification module;

- wherein if the compared module identification data is coincident, the data player reproduces the audio data; and

- wherein if the compared module identification data is not coincident, the data player detects a reproduction rule buried in the read audio data and reproduces the audio data in accordance with the reproduction rule.

Claim 82. (New) The system according to claim 81, wherein the

data player loads the recording medium into the data player and the user designates the audio data to be reproduced from the recording medium.

Claim 83. (New) The system according to claim 81, wherein the data player detects the module identification data buried in the audio data.

Claim 84. (New) The system according to claim 81, wherein the audio data is reproduced when the compared module identification data is coincident by decrypting the audio data using user identification data from the user identification module, decompressing the decrypted audio data, and decoding the decompressed audio data.

Claim 85. (New) The system according to claim 81, wherein the user identification module contains right-of-listening data for transfer to the data player when billing for reproducing of the audio data.